6/27/72

Bugging-vs Demos 1972

Kim Lesar, who may have read it in the Star, tells me that a Cuban groups identified in the bugging is "Cuban Veterans of Ft. Jackson" and that the identification of "Americas" ("Ameretas" as it appeared in the Post) is of a real-estate operation of Barker and Suarez interested is some kind of Hialeah development.

After repatriation of the Bay of Pigs captives, they were offered careers in the regular US Amry. Some accepted. I have heard of Ft. Benning training and have no reason to believe there was none at Ft. Jackson. However, it would necessarily be a small group that on its own would have limited facilities, if not interests. And there has been nothing yet reported to connect either the men arrested of those earlier at the Watergate with the Veterans. My suspicion is that this is another FBI leak to the Star.

Other names, Angel Ferrer, said to be pres. presumeably of Americas or Veterans,, Humberto Lopes, at Watergate not arrested; Former President Americas Wm Alexander; secretary Alberto Carricarte;treas., Hector de Lara. It may be that these are all connected with the Allstates Investment Fund. My notes are too old for my recall.

The silence that has fallen on the press is not completely normal. News stories do play out, but this is the kind that the papers were once wont to follow on their own. I can recall few major stories of recent years in which there was less enterprise, in which the more obvious leads were not followed, in which the more obvious conjectures were avpided when it was legitimate to raise them, especially when virtually all reporting was by-lined. Even in the papers not pro-administration this seems to be too basically scandalous, too ~~gutsy~~ gussy an exposure of the corruption of politics- too anti-Establishmentarian - for adequate investigative reporting.

This extends to even the human-interest of feature or entertainment angles, even though the fadeout was to laughs, as on the Agronsky & Co. show on WTOP-TV 6/24. One example is that Fiorini is alleged to have had 22 or 27 aliases and to have been commisar or gambling under Castro. There is here a legitimate lead and sufficent courses readily available, esp. in Miami, for a follow-up on this. As a matter of fact, the real commisar of gambling, whether or not Fiorini, had quite a career. If it is not in O in NO it is in the research for it and came from a Pearon-Anderson column or The Green Felt Jungle. He had a state-owned limousine, a chauffeur, a bevy of beauties, and he tooled around in high style knocking down the syndicate, which permitted him to win heavily at the gaming tables to hold his good will or prevent action. Part of this story is a favorable peso conversion for the gambled that ended in Castro having their dollars and their holding an enormous quantity of pesos that had no value when he changed currency. HW